



NWIWB briefs

Issue #10— May 2008

2008-09 Board Members Announced

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board conducted their annual board election on April 17, 2008. Following are this year's board members.

Chairman-Gerry Scheff-Emerson Power Transmission

Vice Chairman-Judith Stanton-Stanton Law Office

Secretary-Keith Kirkpatrick-KPM, Inc.

Treasurer-Gary Miller-Prompt Ambulance Service, Inc.

Board Members

Robert Schaefer-*Community Dynamics*, Mike Horton-*Michiana Resources*, Catherine Delgado-*CLD Consulting Services, Inc.*, Michael Berta Jr.-*Portage Township Schools*, Rudy Sutton-*R.V. Sutton, Inc.*, Tom Hargrove-*U.S.W. Local 1010*, Wally Laird-*WRIN/WLQI Radio*, Burt Isch-*Consultant*, John Morgin-*Tri-County True Value Hardware*, Reverend Raymond McDonald II -*St. John Baptist Church (Gary)*.

Local Elected Officials: Kendall Culp-Jasper County, Mike Bohacek-La Porte County, Russell Collins, Jr. -Newton County, Robert Harper-Porter County, Mike Tiede-Pulaski County, Kent Danford-Starke County.

Regional Operator-Region 1 Liaison: Linda Woloshansky, President & CEO, Center of Workforce Innovations



Board Side with Michael J. Berta,

Mike Berta has been with Portage Township Schools for the past 29 years and currently serves as the Superintendent. Before coming to Portage, he spent 7 years with the Merrillville Community School Corporation as Associate Superintendent.

Why did you agree to serve on the NWIWB?

With hopes to improve career opportunities for Northwest Indiana youth as they transition from K-12 education.

What other organizations are you actively involved with?

Porter Hospital Board of Directors, Portage Chamber of Commerce, NW Indiana Race Relations Education Committee, Porter County Education Interlocal Board.

Did your career go in a different direction than you had initially planned?

My career in education has progressed in a variety of positions responsible for advancing learning for youth. I'm glad I chose to spend my life as an educator in public education. Working with kids is very satisfying.

What do you feel is a critical issue that must be addressed in order to move our region forward on staying nationally and globally competitive?

Designing a collaborative environment between and among Northwest Indiana communities. "Together we will succeed."

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funding in Recent Budget Resolution

The House and Senate Budget Conferees reached an agreement on the FY 09 Budget Resolution and the Democratic leadership hopes to complete action on the Conference Report before leaving for the Memorial Day recess.

The budget resolution, which does not have to be signed by the president, includes an additional \$21 billion for domestic discretionary programs above the administration's request level. It also includes \$8.4 billion more for "Function 500" programs which include education, training and social services, which is more than the president requested.

In addition, Senator Patty Murray (Washington State) championed \$390 million in additional funding for WIA above current levels in this budget resolution. The National Workforce Association (NWA) strongly supported Senator Murray in her effort to gain additional funding for WIA. She remains committed to leading the fight for WIA funding through the FY 09 appropriations process. While the funding levels are non binding in the budget resolution, this is a good first step in the FY-09 process.

(Resource: *NWA Workforce Times*)

Talent Gain is Gaining Momentum

John Jackson, Talent Gain Coordinator with the Center of Workforce Innovations, recently visited Fort Bragg in North Carolina, where he represented the NWIWB's Strategic Skills Initiative funded Talent Gain initiative.

Talent Gain uses web cameras between local WorkOne offices and pre-exit military transition centers, allowing employers to interview military candidates prior to their discharge.

With a focus on moving transitioning military personnel into advanced manufacturing or transportation-distribution-logistics (TDL) occupations, Jackson set up a booth at a Fort Bragg career fair, to acquaint soldiers with Northwest Indiana and area jobs where their military trained skills might be needed.

For information regarding Talent Gain, call John at 219-462-2940.



John Jackson (standing) demonstrates the Talent Gain web-cam for a Fort Bragg soldier.

Region Workforce News Bites

Did you know that you may qualify for *free* money to train your employees?

A Training Accelerator Grant (TAG) has just been obtained by the following company:
Beulah, Inc. \$4,000

Beulah, Inc. of Valparaiso, assembles a product that is used to apply primers to glass. Their grant money will be used to train and lead several employees through the Certified Quality Auditor Training.

To find out if you qualify for *free training money* through the Training Accelerator Grant program contact Sandra Alvarez, local TAG & WorkKeys® Consultant at 219-204-2856 or salvarez@innovativeworkforce.com

Call today!

Dates to Remember

NWIWB Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 17, 2008 2:00-4:00 p.m. Purdue Academic Center
Workforce Development Summit	Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008 8:00 a.m.—Noon Radisson Hotel-Merrillville

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) is committed to the development of a highly skilled, motivated, and diverse workforce, earning sustainable or higher wages and actively engaged in skill advancement and life long learning.

DATA

Labor Market Profile

Unemployment Rates (%)

	Apr 2008	Mar 2008
United States	4.8	5.2
Indiana	4.7	5.6
Jasper Co.	5.3	6.5
Lake Co.	5.0	5.9
LaPorte Co.	5.1	6.3
Newton Co.	5.7	6.6
Porter Co.	3.9	4.6
Pulaski Co.	4.5	5.5
Starke Co.	6.2	7.5